

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057793

72

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /011 R

66630

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ EX: LRHUNT: DTHAL: KS

3/28/73 EXT 22460

APPROVED BY: NEA/ EX: LRHUNT

NEA: ARAPHEL - S/ S- O: RVIETS

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P 290047 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057793

EXDIS

STADIS //

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO NEW DELHI FROM COLOMBO

28 MARCH REPEATED

QTE COLOMBO 759

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, IR, CE

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

REF STATE 54134

1. I CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY MDFA JAYASINGHE MARCH 26 TO DISCUSS DEPSEC RUSH' S VISIT AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. AFTER HEARING DATES SUGGESTED FOR COLOMBO VISIT, JAYASINGHE COMMENTED THAT UNDER PROPOSED TIMETABLE RUSH- SISCO PARTY WOULD BE ARRIV- ING JUST FEW HOURS AFTER DEPARTURE OF PRIME MINISTER GANDHI.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 057793

DATES OF GANDHI VISIT WERE BEING CLOSELY HELD, AND WOULD NOT BE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, BUT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH GOI UNDER WHICH MRS. GANDHI WOULD ARRIVE COLOMBO AT 1230 PM FRIDAY, APRIL 27 AND DEPART 3 PM SUNDAY, APRIL 29.

2. JAYASINGHE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER PM BANDARANAIKE WOULD BE EXCESSIVELY FATIGUED AFTER GANDHI VISIT BUT RESOLVED QUESTION BY EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEW THAT SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE BOTH VISITS SATISFACTORILY. HE THEN ASKED IN LOW KEY WHETHER ANY UNUSUAL POLITICAL INTERPRETATIONS WOULD BE PLACED ON ARRIVAL OF DEPSEC RUSH SO SOON AFTER MRS. GANDHI'S DEPARTURE. ON LATTER POINT, HE AGREED WITH MY COMMENT THAT IF DEPSEC'S VISIT WAS CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF HIS TRIP TO NUMBER OF OTHER SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES, NO UNUSUAL POLITICAL OVERTONES NEED ARISE.

3. JAYASINGHE SAID HE WOULD TAKE UP PROPOSED RUSH- SISCO VISIT WITH PM BANDARANAIKE TOMORROW AND LET ME HAVE HER REACTION. HIS PERSONAL FEELING WERE THAT DESPITE CLOSENESS OF TWO VISITS THERE " SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM". I TOLD JAYASINGHE THAT I WOULD BE SEEING PM INFORMALLY TOMORROW EVENING AT DINNER SHE WAS HOSTING FOR DEPARTING PAKISTAN AMB AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS VISIT PRIVATELY WITH HER AT THAT TIME IF SHE DESIRED.

4. COMMENT: UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES BELIEVE OUR ONLY COURSE IS TO SIT TIGHT UNTIL WE HEAR FROM GSL, WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL BE TOMORROW. MEANWHILE, ON IN- HOUSE BASIS WE ARE PREPARING SUGGESTED SCHEDULE FOR COLOMBO VISIT AND WILL FORWARD BY SEPTTEL FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION.

VAN HOLLEN UNQTE  
ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS, STADIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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